

REVIEW AND APPROVALS

GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Arch, New Mexico

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Calendar Year 1993

Donald B. Clapp
Refuge Manager

2-10-94
Date

Billy J. Swickhorn
Associate Manager Review

2-28-94
Date

[Signature]
Regional Office Approval

3/1/94
Date



GRL1-7/93

DRC

Salt Lake Shoreline

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Grulla National Wildlife Refuge is located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico near the small town of Arch, approximately 25 miles northwest of the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge comprises 3,236 acres. The saline lake bed of Salt Lake consists of 2,330 acres and the remainder of the refuge is grassland. Grulla was officially established as a National Wildlife Refuge on November 6, 1969 by Public Land Order No. 4742 transferring the land from BLM.

The refuge is beneficial as a wintering area for lesser sandhill cranes during wet periods when the lake holds water. Although the flat lake bed is often dry or nearly dry for several years in a row, when sufficient water is present large concentrations of cranes use the refuge as a roosting site.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

| | Page |
|--|------|
| A. HIGHLIGHTS | 1 |
| B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS | 1-2 |
| C. LAND ACQUISITION | |
| 1. Fee Title..... | NTR |
| 2. Easement..... | NTR |
| 3. Other..... | NTR |
| D. PLANNING | |
| 1. Master Plan..... | NTR |
| 2. Management Plan..... | NTR |
| 3. Public Participation..... | NTR |
| 4. Compliance with Environmental Mandates and Cultural Resource Mandates..... | NTR |
| 5. Research and Investigations..... | NTR |
| 6. Other..... | NTR |
| E. ADMINISTRATION | |
| 1. Personnel..... | 2-4 |
| 2. Youth Programs..... | NTR |
| 3. Public Participation..... | NTR |
| 4. Volunteers..... | 4-5 |
| 5. Funding..... | 6 |
| 6. Safety..... | 6 |
| 7. Technical Assistance..... | NTR |
| 8. Other Items..... | 6-7 |

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | General..... | 7-8 |
| 2. | Wetlands..... | 8-11 |
| 3. | Forests..... | NTR |
| 4. | Croplands..... | NTR |
| 5. | Grasslands..... | 11-12 |
| 6. | Other Habitats..... | NTR |
| 7. | Grazing..... | 12-13 |
| 8. | Haying..... | NTR |
| 9. | Fire Management..... | NTR |
| 10. | Pest Control..... | NTR |
| 11. | Water Rights..... | NTR |
| 12. | Wilderness and Special Areas..... | NTR |
| 13. | WPA Easement Monitoring..... | NTR |

G. WILDLIFE

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1. | Wildlife Diversity..... | NTR |
| 2. | Endangered and/or Threatened Species..... | NTR |
| 3. | Waterfowl..... | 13 |
| 4. | Marsh and Water Birds..... | 13 |
| 5. | Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species..... | 13 |
| 6. | Raptors..... | 14 |
| 7. | Other Migratory Birds..... | 14 |
| 8. | Game Mammals..... | 14 |
| 9. | Marine Mammals..... | NTR |
| 10. | Other Resident Wildlife..... | 14 |
| 11. | Fisheries Resources..... | NTR |
| 12. | Wildlife Propagation and Stocking..... | NTR |
| 13. | Surplus Animal Disposal..... | NTR |
| 14. | Scientific Collections..... | NTR |
| 15. | Animal Control..... | NTR |
| 16. | Marking and Banding..... | NTR |
| 17. | Disease Prevention and Control..... | NTR |

H. PUBLIC USE

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | General..... | 14 |
| 2. | Outdoor Classrooms - Students..... | NTR |
| 3. | Outdoor Classrooms - Teachers..... | NTR |
| 4. | Interpretive Foot Trails..... | NTR |
| 5. | Interpretive Tour Routes..... | NTR |

| | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| 6. | Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations..... | NTR |
| 7. | Other Interpretive Programs..... | NTR |
| 8. | Hunting..... | NTR |
| 9. | Fishing..... | NTR |
| 10. | Trapping..... | NTR |
| 11. | Wildlife Observation..... | 14 |
| 12. | Other Wildlife Oriented Recreation..... | NTR |
| 13. | Camping..... | NTR |
| 14. | Picnicking..... | NTR |
| 15. | Off-Road Vehicling..... | NTR |
| 16. | Other Non-Wildlife Oriented Recreation..... | NTR |
| 17. | Law Enforcement..... | 14-15 |
| 18. | Cooperating Associations..... | NTR |
| 19. | Concessions..... | NTR |

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | New Construction..... | NTR |
| 2. | Rehabilitation..... | 16-17 |
| 3. | Major Maintenance..... | NTR |
| 4. | Equipment Utilization and Replacement..... | NTR |
| 5. | Communications Systems..... | NTR |
| 6. | Computer Systems..... | NTR |
| 7. | Energy Conservation..... | NTR |
| 8. | Other..... | NTR |

J. OTHER ITEMS

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Cooperative Programs..... | NTR |
| 2. | Other Economic Uses..... | NTR |
| 3. | Items of Interest..... | NTR |
| 4. | Credits..... | 17 |

K. FEEDBACK

NTR

L. INFORMATION PACKET

(Inside Back Cover)

A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Salt Lake held some water June through August (F.2).
- No refuge sandhill crane use was observed the entire year (G.4).
- Vandalism at the refuge parking area was prevalent this year (H.17).
- Visitor use more than doubled this year (H.1).
- Deer were observed on the refuge (G.8).

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Precipitation was slightly above the annual average of 16 inches this year totaling 17.67 inches. Only light snowfall was reported in 1993 occurring in January and February.



GRL2-3/93

DRC

Salt Lake during March.

Weather during January through May was dry and windy. Precipitation was adequate June through September. Little moisture was received the remainder of the year.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

No personnel are stationed at the refuge. The refuge is administered from Muleshoe NWR.



GRL3-9/93

GKC

Don Clapp - Refuge Manager, GS-11, PFT



GRL4-9/93

DRC

Glenda Copley - Office Assistant, GS-6, PFT



GRL5-8/93

DRC

Dean Gilliam - Maintenance Worker, WG-8, PFT



GRL6-7/93

DRC

Tom Boutell - Maintenance Worker, WG-5, TFT

4. Volunteers

Raymond Stokes, who lives three miles northwest of the refuge at Arch, New Mexico, was a refuge volunteer throughout the year. Mr. Stokes maintained precipitation records and also reported general observations of waterfowl and sandhill crane populations in the area.



GRL7-7/93

DRC

Rob Clapp - Volunteer

Volunteer Rob Clapp spent 30 hours assisting with boundary posting along the south side of Salt Lake during July.

Kevin Harris enrolled as a volunteer in November and contributed several hours during November and December. Duties included reporting visitor use, vandalism, reading traffic counters, and picking up litter.

5. Funding

| Refuge Funding FY 89-93 | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| FY | 1260 | 8610 |
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>MMS</u> |
| 93 | 1,000 | 5,900 |
| 92 | 2,000 | 5,800 |
| 91 | 1,200 | |
| 90 | 2,300 | |
| 89 | 2,000 | 107 |

6. Safety

Monthly safety meetings were conducted at the Muleshoe NWR.

8. Other ItemsOfficial Visitors - FWS

July 15 Deborah Holle, Refuge Manager, Balcones NWR,
Austin, TX, visit/tour

Training and Meetings

Muleshoe NWR personnel

Refuge Manager Clapp

- Law Enforcement Refresher
Training, Marana, AZ
March 22-27.
- Project Leaders Meeting
Albuquerque, NM
May 11-14
- Playa Lakes Region Land
Protection Initiative Meeting
Buffalo Lake NWR, Umbarger, TX
August 18.
- Texas Department of
Agriculture Pesticide
Application Training
Lubbock, TX
September 16.

- Firearms Requalification
Raton, NM
October 27.
- IPLDC Waterfowl Disease
Meeting, Buffalo Lake NWR
Umbarger, TX
November 17.
- Office Assistant Copley - Administrative Conference
Albuquerque, NM
April 26-30.
- Maintenance Worker Gilliam - Automotive Air Condition
Seminar, Morton, TX
February 23.
- Assist with Heavy Equipment
Training, Buffalo Lake NWR
Umbarger, TX
April 12-23.
- Texas Department of
Agriculture Pesticide
Application Training
Quitaque, TX
August 25.
- Texas Department of
Agriculture Pesticide
Application Training
Lubbock, TX
September 15-16.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

The refuge comprises 3,236 acres of which 906 acres are grassland and 2,330 acres are saline lake bottom.



GRL8-7/93

Salt Lake

DRC

2. Wetlands



GRL9-7/93

Salt Lake with water.

DRC

Salt Lake held 100 surface acres of water in July but was completely dry by the end of August and remained so the rest of the year. There is no management of the lake basin since part is privately owned as well as is most of the lake access.



GRL10-7/93

DRC

Salt Lake in July -
at it's wettest for the year.



GRL11-7/93

DRC

The northeast edge of Salt Lake in late July.



GRL12-3/93

DRC

Salt Lake near the west boundary.



GRL13-3/93

DRC

Shifting sands on the southeast side of Salt Lake.

5. Grasslands



GRL14-3/93

DRC

Grassland adjacent the south side of Salt Lake.

Except for a small area adjacent the entrance road the refuge boundary is not fenced since it extends through the lake bed in several areas. Although acquisition of an abandoned road right-of-way in 1983 allowed access to a small portion of the refuge, acquisition of adjacent land would be required before any boundary fencing could be accomplished.

7. Grazing



GRL15-3/93

DRC

Non grazed refuge grassland in the fenced area.

Cattle from adjacent lands have grazed on the refuge grasslands since 1969 when the land was acquired from the Bureau of Land Management and fencing was determined to be unfeasible.



GRL16-7/93

DRC

Grazed refuge grassland.

G. WILDLIFE

3. Waterfowl

The only waterfowl seen on Salt Lake this year consisted of 10 mallards observed during June.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

No lesser sandhill cranes were observed on the refuge this year.

During August 100 white-faced ibis were observed at Salt Lake.

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, and Allied Species

Although there was some shorebird use on Salt Lake when it held water wildlife surveys are quite difficult to conduct since there are no access roads around Salt Lake. During June a few American avocet were observed at the north side of Salt Lake.

6. Raptors

Turkey vultures and golden eagles were occasionally seen on the refuge or nearby. Others observed included northern harrier, American kestrel, ferruginous hawk, and red-tailed hawk.

7. Other Migratory Birds

Twenty five cliff swallows were observed at the southwest end of Salt Lake during July.

8. Game Mammals

Two mule deer were observed on the refuge in late December.

10. Other Resident Wildlife

Ring-necked pheasant, scaled quail, and lesser prairie chicken were often seen on or near the refuge.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Nearly 2,800 visitors used the refuge this year, 1,600 more than were recorded during 1992. Many of the refuge visitors are from the Portales, New Mexico area, approximately 30 miles west of the refuge. The Eastern New Mexico University is at Portales.

During recent years improvements to the refuge have included an entrance road, parking area, interpretive trail and signs, entrance signs, and a traffic counter.

11. Wildlife Observation

The majority of the public use at Grulla pertains to wildlife/wildlands observation. There are no facilities on the site.

17. Law Enforcement

Enforcing refuge regulations at Grulla is difficult because of the distance from Muleshoe NWR and few available personnel. There is only one staff member at the Muleshoe NWR with law enforcement authority.

Throughout the year occasional vandalism has occurred at the refuge parking area. Mostly, damaged signs, damaged parking barriers, and littering. Vandalism occurred in all months except May, September, November and December. Most pertained to damaged parking barriers. The most serious incidents were

the theft of a large interpretive sign and the destruction of several parking area rails and posts.



GRL17-7/93

DRC

This wetland was created by someone who thought they could drive their four-wheeled drive vehicle across Salt Lake.

During July it was discovered that someone had driven into Salt Lake at the northeast part of the refuge and managed to drive a remarkable 300 yards from the edge before creating a "small marsh". Rumor has it that the individual had to pay a thousand dollars for wrecker fees required to remove this vehicle and three farm tractors from the "quagmire".

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

2. Rehabilitation



GRL18-3/93

DRC

The west boundary line is difficult to keep posted since it crosses the boggy lake bed.

Nearly five miles of refuge boundary were rehabilitated with wooden posts and new boundary signs. Boundary posting rehabilitation was completed by refuge personnel on the south side and the west end of the refuge on July 30.



GRL19-7/93

DRC

Boundary signs often disappear under the drifting sands along the northeast edge of Salt Lake.

J. OTHER ITEMS

4. Credits

This report was written by Manager Clapp and printed and assembled by Office Assistant Copley.

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GRULLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Roosevelt County, New Mexico

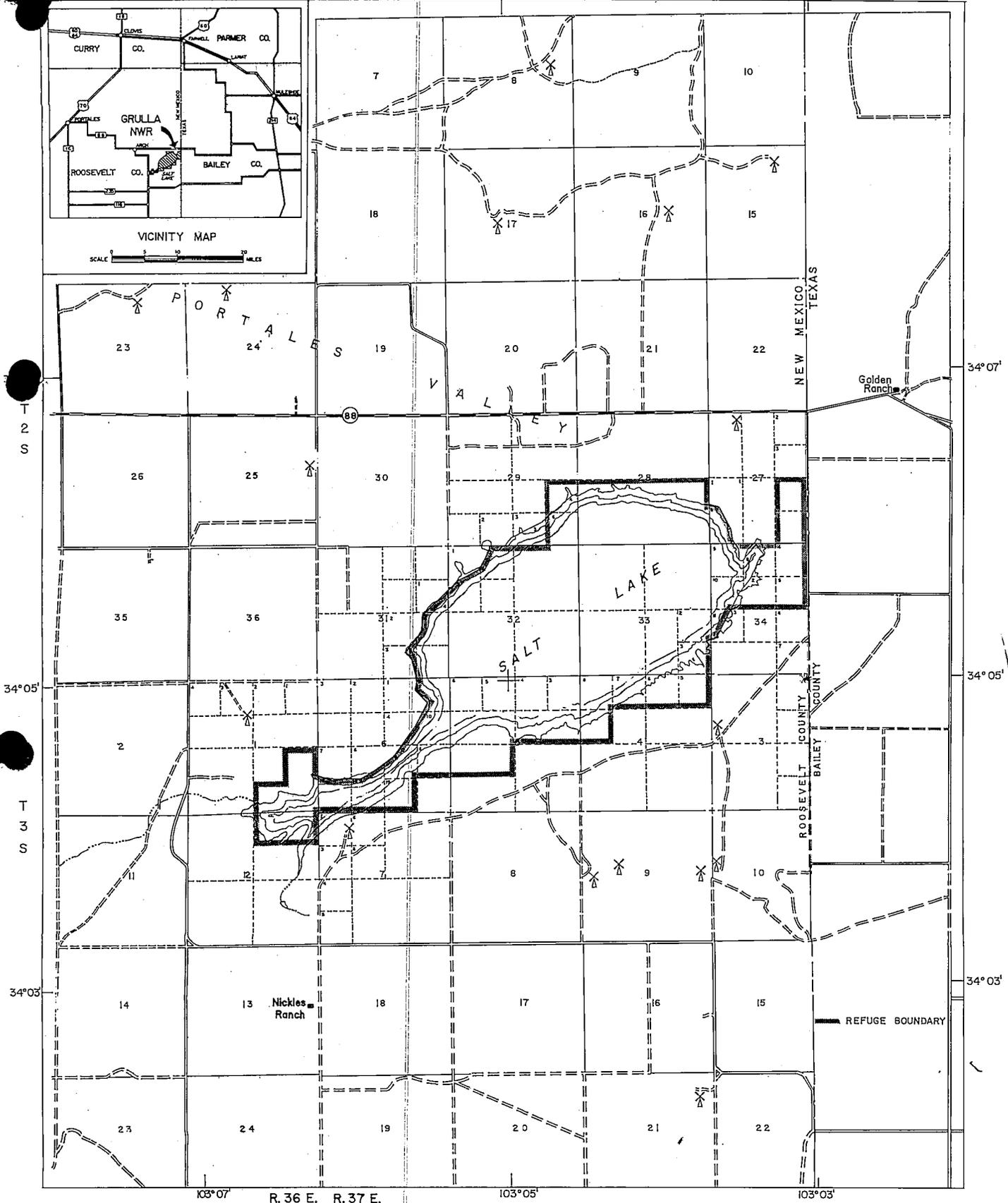
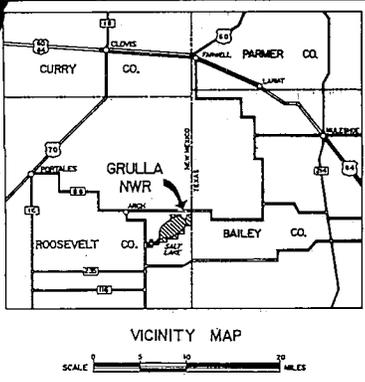
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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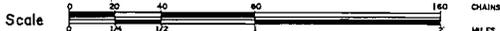
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COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF ENGINEERING
FROM G.L.O. PLATS, U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLES,
AND OTHER OFFICIAL INFORMATION, REVISED JANUARY 1972

SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN



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| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
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| 34 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 29 |
| 35 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 30 |
| 36 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 31 |

TOWNSHIP
DIAGRAM



MEAN
DECLINATION
1965